

**V. LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCIP)**

**A. Update from the Department of Resources and Economic Development on revision of the management plan for Nash Stream State Forest and discussion**

Ms. Boisvert and Mr. Carpenter provided information on DRED's update of the management plan for Nash Stream State Forest. Ms. Boisvert said the management plan is in process and most chapters of the plan are in final draft format with the exception of the recreational chapter which discusses ATV use. Ms. Boisvert stated there are concerns about whether or not to allow additional ATV expansion in Nash Stream. At the last CORD meeting in July, DRED was directed to look further into this issue based on the criteria listed in RSA 215-A: 42-43, which list evaluation criteria for determining whether or not to allow ATV use on state lands. Ms. Boisvert noted Nash Stream is state land, some of which was acquired through the LCIP program.

Ms. Boisvert said the technical team met earlier in the week and is in the process of doing the analysis that CORD has requested. The technical team consists of members from the Fish and Game Department, the Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Historical Resources, US Forest Service, a DRED Regional Forester from the Nash Stream area, and other staff from DRED. Mr. Carpenter stated that the GIS evaluation is almost completed but not available to the technical team yet.

Ms. Hatfield said that her understanding is that there are two phases to the review process before a new ATV trail could be approved. She stated that her understanding is that the management plan update process would not approve a specific trail, but serves more as overarching guidance for the management and use of the property. Ms. Boisvert explained that the technical team wants to be specific about a potential trail corridor area, if one were to eventually be allowed. Some members are planning to look at this in the field hopefully in October once the GIS information is pulled together. Their evaluation information will be provided to CORD at a future meeting once it's completed. Mr. Carpenter said that it's possible that the management plan will not recommend any new trails.

Ms. Hatfield noted that the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests submitted a letter to CORD that suggested the state review the overall ATV planning in the state, not just Nash Stream, and noted that each member had a copy and that it would be posted to the CORD page on OEP's website. Mr. Leahy said the Forest Society does have concerns with the possible expansion of ATVs in Nash Stream. Mr. Leahy said the overall intent of the letter is to encourage a greater overall planning process for ATV use, beyond Nash Stream, that involves all stakeholders.

Mr. Drew asked if the planning process could be part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which is a plan that the Division of Parks does every five years. Ms. Slack said that the SCORP is a requirement of the National Park Service in order for the state to receive Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. The next update will be in 2018-2019. Ms. Hatfield stated that this is an interesting idea that OEP

would raise with DRED's Division of Parks and Recreation, which has the responsibility for developing the SCORP with OEP's assistance.

Ms. Boisvert said that a master plan for ATV trail development in the state was developed for 2003 to 2008 but there has been no additional master planning that she is aware of. Ms. Hatfield asked Ms. Boisvert to provide another update to CORD at the next meeting.

Ms. Boisvert said that Trout Unlimited has applied for a grant which would allow completion of stream restoration of about 9 miles of the main stem stream and 11 miles of tributary habitat in the Nash Stream State Forest. Ms. Hatfield asked if the restoration is required because of historical logging activity. Ms. Boisvert said there was a large dam blow out in the 1960s which caused a lot of damage in addition to likely historical logging activity and undersized culverts. Ms. Hatfield thanked Ms. Boisvert and Mr. Carpenter for the update on Nash Stream.

**B. Update from the Department of Resources and Economic Development on visual improvements at Livermore Falls**

Ms. Boisvert provided an update regarding utility poles placed at Livermore Falls. Ms. Boisvert said that the NH Electric Coop, in the process of constructing electric lines needed to serve the Groton Wind farm, installed new poles to replace older poles that crossed Livermore Falls. In addition, due to other issues related to the wind farm, a settlement agreement was reached between the company and the Department of Justice's Public Counsel that required mitigation in the form of a payment to DRED which will be used to make improvements to Livermore Falls, as was discussed at CORD's July meeting. Some abutters and other interested parties raised questions about whether the new poles were allowed, and if there is an existing easement for poles across the property. Ms. Boisvert recently attended a meeting with NH Electric Coop, DRED and DOJ to discuss the utility poles constructed near the Pumpkin Seed Bridge and how to mitigate the visual impacts of the poles.

Ms. Boisvert said that there was discussion about possible vegetative buffers to reduce visual impacts. There was also discussion about whether the utility poles are allowed to be in this location. Ms. Boisvert said they were told that a previous utility easement exists in the area where the poles are constructed now, and that the NH Electric Coop believes that the new poles are also properly within the right-of-way.

Mr. Carpenter said the right-of-way deeds only reference the poles and that there was no specific width for the easement mentioned in the deeds. DRED sent surveyors to the property and they were able to locate where the old pole stubs were and determined that the tower on the west side of the bridge is where the old pole would have been, and is therefore allowed. The tower on the east side is not on state land.